

Inclusive Planning as a Tool for Social Integration: Asia & the Pacific

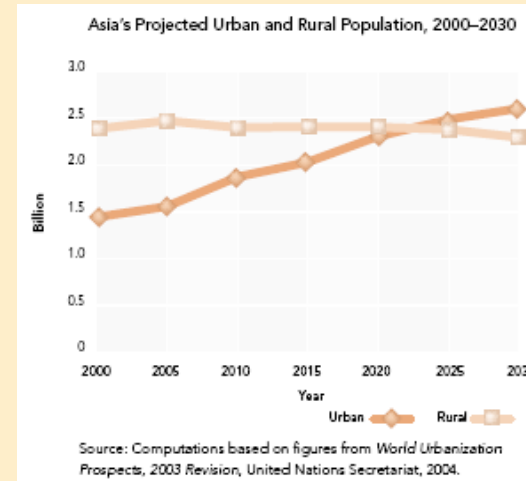
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Overview

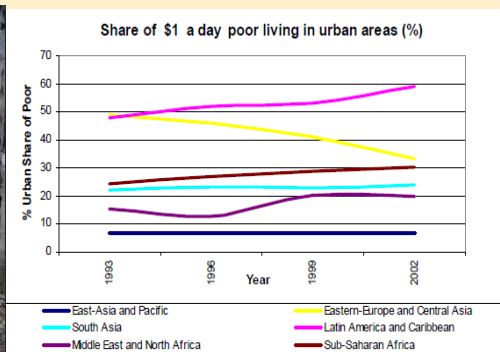
- *The Asia-Pacific region is the fastest growing regional economy and cities are at centre of growth, creativity & globalisation*
- *Economic growth is not benefiting all urban residents equally; decreased income poverty has been traded for growing disparities within cities & between urban/rural areas*
- *Many cities in Asia-Pacific are characterised by inadequate infrastructure & services*
- *Asia is a home for two-thirds of the world's slum population*
- *Poverty is also reflected through & results from social exclusion & disempowerment*



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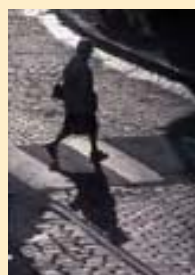
Urbanisation, Planning & Exclusion

- Planning and design has an important role to play in ensuring inclusive cities. Yet efforts to create 'world class' or model cities more often exclude public needs, e.g. housing, livelihoods and accessible space;
- Current planning approaches are reinforcing spatial segregation and creating spaces of exclusion. Tenure insecurity is widespread;
- Insecure tenure impedes infrastructure and services, thus further reinforcing marginality and poverty;
- Eviction and tenure insecurity destroys social networks and capital and encourages corruption and criminal networks;
- Fragmentation, 'territorialisation' and isolation of communities creates tensions, especially in cities of diversity. Less interaction of people in urban society negatively affects a shared sense of urban citizenship.



Forms of exclusion

- Exclusion may be spatial, cultural, economic, political & is often a combination of these;
- E.g. women and girls face insecurities in accessing public transport, working in public spaces and dealing with police. This affects women's ability to participate in economic and social life;
- Cultural safety nets, values & systems are undergoing rapid change = breaking down;
- Institutions often do not represent views/needs of youth, women & vulnerable (including police & justice systems);
- Urban planning is rarely inclusive of 'minority' voices, concerns & needs.



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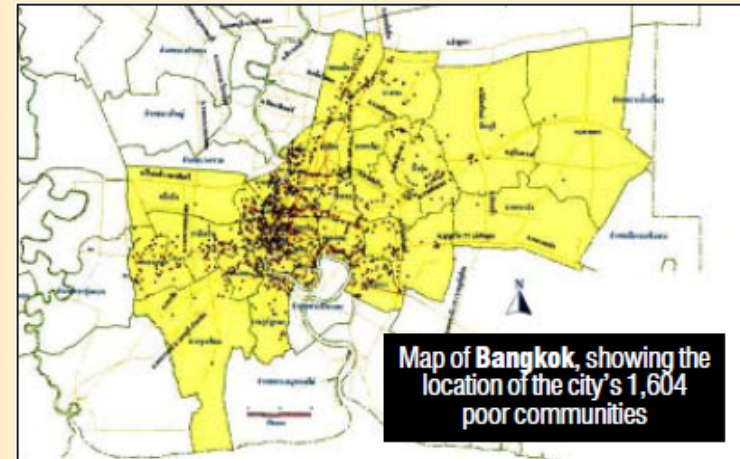
The costs of exclusion

For many life is characterised by tenuous connections – to jobs, land, housing and even the ‘right’ to stay in the city. There is a cost for individuals, households & cities in marginalisation & exclusion:

- ‘Illegal’ housing (slums, informal settlements) are rarely included in urban planning & governance & often provide impediments to physical planning;
- High cost of informal payments, bribes & harassment by police is a drain on the poor’s incomes (e.g. informal sector);
- The absence of formal structures is likely to lead to the establishment of ‘alternative’ leaders and gatekeepers (e.g. Mastaans, Dhaka);
- There are health costs of living in an unhealthy urban environment with inadequate infrastructure and increasing pollution;
- Constant threats & consequences of eviction has environmental consequences in marginal sites denied infrastructure and services;
- Various forms of exclusion are also linked to declining urban safety in a number of cities

‘Doing everything together, all the time!’: Baan Mankong, Thailand

- Thailand has achieved great prosperity in recent decades, yet...
- Considerable exclusion remains: with northern hill tribes; integration of migrants; from the conflict in Southern Thailand; and within cities.
- Urban inequality remains significant. It is evident in the persistence of poor *klong*/canal communities & a protracted housing & environmental crisis



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CODI & State-supported community planning [Baan Mankong]



- CODI (Community Organizations Development Institute) established in 2000 as Gov't/NGO forum also linking professionals, academics & communities
- Baan Mankong 'secure house' (2003-)
- Has supported 80,000 HH/1,312 communities: mostly onsite/nearby upgrading: revolving loan fund of \$80m
- Money used to develop community plans; purchase land; to clean waterways; upgrade shelter; support livelihoods
- Communities evaluate priorities, build networks (e.g. Thai Canal Network) develop strategies & negotiate ('people's plans') with authorities with assistance from CODI
- Changing relationships between the poor and authorities? Upgrading does have its discontents



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“The government says ‘the canal is dirty because the people are dirty’” [Resident]

“to live with the canal they need to change their own selves” [CODI worker]

“Now we can say ‘look what we are doing – look at we have done’” [Resident]



Building sustainable cities through inclusive planning

- Many communities have rallied around the opportunity to develop environmental, savings, infrastructure & architecture projects: clear improvements are obvious;
- Acts of resistance, transformation & sustainability. Strengthening capacities: The Thai Canal Network;
- Projects as catalysts: a reference point, and a surrogate for broader claims and negotiations;
- Yet when activities have not led to greater recognition & inclusion in decision making (esp. livelihoods, tenure) impetus is lost;
- Improving urban conditions is clearly related to greater rights, ability to participate and broader claims of citizenship;
- Much can be learned through Baan Mankong: Are such gains ephemeral and localised? Yet, what are the alternatives?



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Urban Crime: Papua New Guinea

- Urban crime in PNG is a pandemic; stopping business development; hindering safe movement around the city (esp. for women); isolating communities with reputation for crime ('settlement' stigmatization);
- Urban crime has become a part of daily life; raskol gangs have been a particular source of violent crime;
- 2/3rds of households in Port Moresby are affected by crime each yr; 50% by multiple crimes: 'a city behind wire'.
- An increasing proportion of people's income is going into security, fortification of houses;
- Twice Port Moresby has been ranked as amongst the 'worst' cities in the world to live, and often as one of the most dangerous



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Yumi Lukautim Mosbi Project

- Port Moresby has had many law and order programs, projects and activities but these have had little or no impact on the situation;
- Lack of leadership, governance, institutional ownership & meaningful engagement with communities as partners and agents for change;
- ‘Off the shelf’ approaches have failed to develop partnerships & effective ‘constituencies of change’;
- YLMP began in 2006 and funded by AusAID
- It recognised a need for success which could be immediately felt by those most affected by crime, but recognised the limits of government-centred law and order programs.



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YLMP: Innovative pathways to integrating urban communities

- Emphasis on building coalitions & strengthening strategies of law enforcement, dispute resolution, restorative justice and diversion
- Four key strategies:
 - Promotion of sport and youth engagement, particularly through schools and informal settlements;
 - Reintegration through skills development, which specifically targets the inclusion of private sector involvement, trade skills and employment creation;
 - Awareness of urban safety through positive stories, use of media and examples of community initiatives (getting a new message out);
 - Community engagement (development of community forums to build consensus on needs & seek funding for initiatives)

YLMP: Networks for success

- Success through innovative and organic development of partnerships beyond standard solutions & partners.
 - Creative use of media by those affected by, and those contributing to, the city's crime;
 - Awareness programs through thousands of t-shirts which reinforce key messages such as keeping Port Moresby clean; saying no to drugs; and the positive role of youth in communities.;
 - Radio/television shows and infomercials, and a hit song involved *raskols* themselves in sending messages to other urban youth;
 - 'Say no to guns': communities banning guns, generating sense of safety through signs advertising this to others;
 - New partnerships between communities and the private sector;
 - Directly targeted improving people's sense of safety and the opportunities that arise from pursuing alternatives to crime.



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Integrating *raskols*



Through gun hand-ins



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For livelihood projects



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Meri Seif Ples: safe spaces/cities for women through shared social responsibility



**Sapos yu kisim birua
na yu pret,
yu kam insait NAU.**

Such 'safe houses' have been created in businesses, embassies, hotels and so on

Lessons & conclusions

- Both case studies are examples of *subsidiarity*: where responsibility is allocated to the lowest effective level of decision making, at which the greatest number are able to benefit through (their own) action;
- Each is specific to location: not blueprint approaches but there are key lessons . Felt needs have been met, but each is organic:
- Planning transformed: where it is made relevant to the norms, values & needs of affected communities;
- Several forms of exclusion have been addressed simultaneously;
- There has been a strengthening of planning processes & democracy = a broadening of citizenship: *inclusion by design*;
- Communities are embedded in process & outcomes – these are tangible gains (safety, sustainability, savings, tenure, upgrading etc);
- Catalytic role of government: it has enabled & sought new relationships, modes, allowed ownership & opportunities which transcend the specific issue.